

ADGES IGNORED

Holland Tells of Catchings Attitude of Fuel Chief's Order.

Waddill Catchings, who is chairman of the war committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, is one of many men occupied in directing the war effort. He is now doing two men's work in one day.

For there is not an industrial leader who is not serving the government without remuneration who is not devoting each day to the service of his country. How long the physical strain can stand a strain of this kind remains to be discovered. Two or three men have already partially collapsed.

Mr. Catchings is president of one of the important independent steel and iron industries of the United States. At this time there are responsibilities upon him which are so great as to demand all their time if they are fully to meet them.

Nevertheless Mr. Catchings apparently regards the service which he can perform for the government as first in importance. In the circumstances he has been brought in touch with all the leaders of industry as well as trade and commerce in the United States.

He therefore speaks with authority when he speaks for them, and as chairman of the war committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States he has felt that he was not only justified, but that the circumstances required to set forth the views of the great majority of the industrial leaders of the country respecting the fuel order whereby ten thousand tons of coal were to be distributed as closed days for industries of all kinds.

Mr. Catchings says that this committee, of which he is chairman, had knowledge of the Fuel Administration contemplated any action of that kind until the members of the committee. The purpose as announced was so extraordinary and if adopted was so likely seriously to impair business activities that the committee immediately sought Dr. Harry A. Garfield, so that as the representatives of American industries they could learn upon him what he really meant when issued the order.

Drastic Action Needed. Dr. Garfield told this committee which spoke for the business men of the United States, that drastic action was necessary in order to clear up the situation and that this action should be taken in the form of a complete suspension of industry for the week days until mid March.

This statement was astonishing, although the committee believed and so stated that if the formal order of Dr. Garfield was issued it was the duty of business men to do everything in their power to carry out the spirit of the purpose of the order.

That was the order necessary. In the first place Mr. Catchings pointed out to Dr. Garfield that the order would upon the instant strike a severe blow to business men and to workers, and that it would be a far more complete suspension of industry for the week days until mid March.

Against Mr. Catchings suggested to Dr. Garfield that action of this kind, which is unprecedented, should be taken with men who as a whole represent the industries of the United States, especially as all of these industries have organized committees to make co-operation.

Amused by Garfield. Nevertheless Mr. Catchings and fellow members of his committee assumed that industry of all kinds would not have been suddenly shaken in this way unless there was the weightiest reason for the order. And yet the committee, representative of all the industries of the United States, was compelled to speak with amazement that Dr. Garfield should have taken such action without any conference at all with the industrial leaders throughout the country.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McAdoo, was not to be taken in the belief of the Fuel Administration that it was vital to impose closed days in each week for ten weeks. The Secretary had to look at the provision of the order.

He was contemplating stupendous plans, whereby billions of dollars could be raised for the government before the close of the present fiscal year.

In order to facilitate the floating of the great loan, it was in his view vital that industries should be speeded up, so that they could earn every penny possible. He was not to be taken in the belief of the Fuel Administration that it was vital to impose closed days in each week for ten weeks. The Secretary had to look at the provision of the order.

For Central Control. One of the reasons ascribed by Mr. Catchings for the sudden and extraordinary action of Dr. Garfield can be discovered in the necessity for hasty decisions which are inevitable as long as there is lacking machinery for centralizing and controlling the war effort. The separation of activities of the government. The business men of the United States are practically unanimous in favor of central control.

There is no doubt that among industrial leaders and business men the feeling is general that the closed Monday order was a mistake, and yet the faithful observance of it have been a guarantee as to make it clear that business and industry of all kinds in the United States are ready to follow the lead of the government even though that leadership may appear to them to have been a mistake.

By HOLLAND.

BALTIMORE GRAIN. Special to The Washington Herald. Baltimore, Feb. 11.—The following prices on the Baltimore grain market:

WHEAT—Standard white, No. 1, 2.25; No. 2, 2.20; No. 3, 2.15; No. 4, 2.10; No. 5, 2.05; No. 6, 2.00; No. 7, 1.95; No. 8, 1.90; No. 9, 1.85; No. 10, 1.80; No. 11, 1.75; No. 12, 1.70; No. 13, 1.65; No. 14, 1.60; No. 15, 1.55; No. 16, 1.50; No. 17, 1.45; No. 18, 1.40; No. 19, 1.35; No. 20, 1.30; No. 21, 1.25; No. 22, 1.20; No. 23, 1.15; No. 24, 1.10; No. 25, 1.05; No. 26, 1.00; No. 27, 0.95; No. 28, 0.90; No. 29, 0.85; No. 30, 0.80; No. 31, 0.75; No. 32, 0.70; No. 33, 0.65; No. 34, 0.60; No. 35, 0.55; No. 36, 0.50; No. 37, 0.45; No. 38, 0.40; No. 39, 0.35; No. 40, 0.30; No. 41, 0.25; No. 42, 0.20; No. 43, 0.15; No. 44, 0.10; No. 45, 0.05; No. 46, 0.00; No. 47, 0.00; No. 48, 0.00; No. 49, 0.00; No. 50, 0.00; No. 51, 0.00; No. 52, 0.00; No. 53, 0.00; No. 54, 0.00; No. 55, 0.00; No. 56, 0.00; No. 57, 0.00; No. 58, 0.00; No. 59, 0.00; No. 60, 0.00; No. 61, 0.00; No. 62, 0.00; No. 63, 0.00; No. 64, 0.00; No. 65, 0.00; No. 66, 0.00; No. 67, 0.00; No. 68, 0.00; No. 69, 0.00; No. 70, 0.00; No. 71, 0.00; 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